

FY08 SOMERVILLE BUDGET HEARINGS

Executive Office of the Arts Council

Gregory Jenkins, Director



1. Current Programs – FY07

ArtBeat: Two-day cultural arts festival, now in its 21st year, serving 10,000 audience members and 150 artist and program staff, with two stages of music, 100 vendors, a dance stage, a theater stage, performance art, an outdoor exhibit, and a kids participatory art area.



2. Current Programs – FY07

ArtsUnion: A cultural economic development initiative within Union Square. Comprised of five components to create immediate and long-term impact, including 10 performances, 12 craft markets (with the farmers market), street architecture, historical and cultural tours, and a zoning analysis focused on the arts and economic development. This project worked with over 200 artists serving 15,000 visitors to Union Square.



3. Current Programs – FY07

Art in the Garden: A 4-day a week, six-week free summer drop-in program serving approx. 50 youth, ages 6-12, and their families. Youth learn about art, environmental education, and gardening while at the Community Growing Center on Vinal Ave.

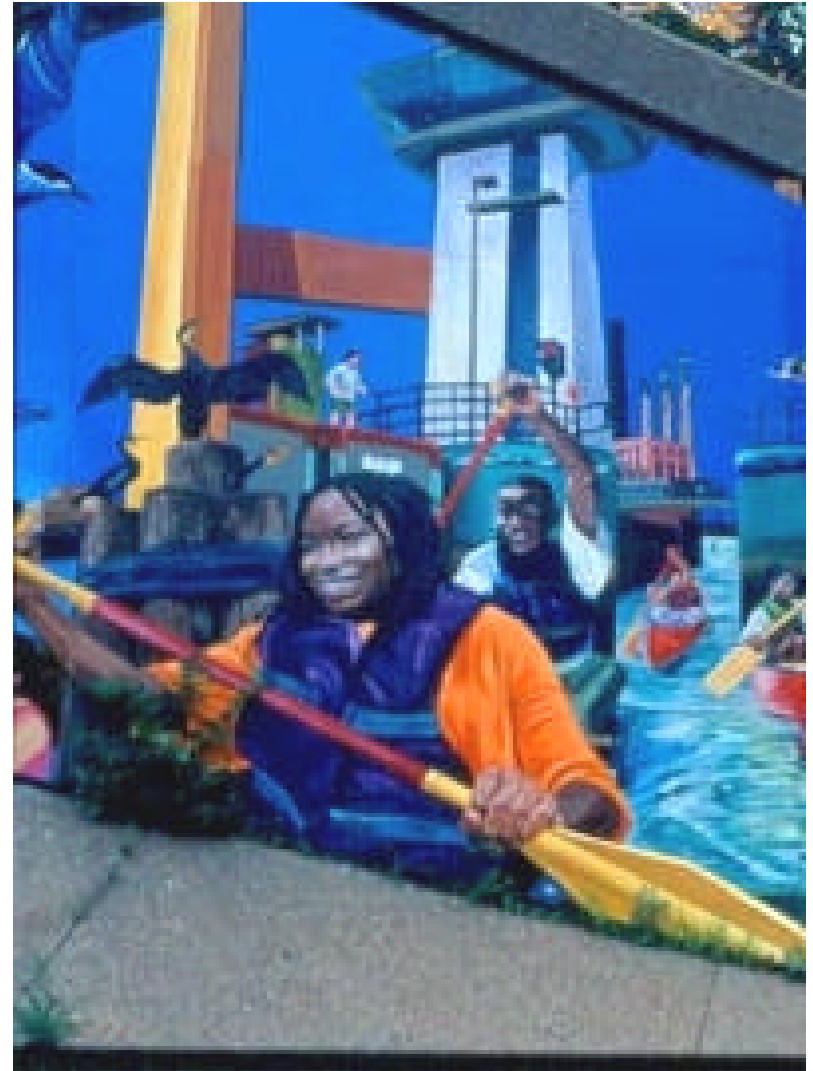


Windows Art Project: A month-long public art project working with 15 artists and 12 local businesses. WAP's model is predicated on the belief that a public square/places and local business can be utilized to create a public art gallery.



4. Current Programs – FY07

Mural Project: A 5-day a week, six-week summer youth employment program. 10 youth, predominantly from the Mystic Housing Development and East Somerville, working directly with a mural director and environmental education learning about the Mystic River and its watershed. Youth participate in fieldtrips and derive a theme from which they design and paint plywood panels, approximately 8' in height and 36' in length, which are added to the existing mural along Mystic Ave.



5. Current Programs – FY07

Books of Hope: A 10-month literacy and empowerment project working with approximately 20 teen-age youth from the Mystic Housing Development. Youth participate in writing and presenting workshops to develop original writing that is published, publicly presented, and then sold.



6. Current Programs – FY07

Illuminations Tour: A tour celebrating the art of Somervillians as they decorate their homes and yards for the holiday season. The tour organizes 27 trolley tours in one evening event serving 1,200 people.



7. Current Programs – FY07

Somerville Art Exhibits:

Working with the Mayor's office, the Somerville Public schools, and the local artist community, SAC curates approximately 3 exhibits per year at City Hall, serving countless visitors and artists.



8. Arts Council – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

1. In FY07, the Council continued for a second year the ArtsUnion cultural economic project. Supported by a \$40,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, this project generated huge benefits for local businesses, artists, and residents. We were successful in securing an additional \$40,000 to continue this work in FY08.
2. With support from a Tufts University fellow, we initiated our Mentoring program. Guidelines and training procedures were established and three mentor/student matches were set. This creates a solid groundwork. Due to little outside support we do not anticipate continuing this program for FY08.

9. Arts Council – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

3. The Arts Council estimates that \$150,000 was raised in outside funding to support all of our programs. Through our local cultural council grant program, we assembled 35 panelists to review 85 applications and ultimately award \$25,500 to 35 schools, organizations, and individuals to conduct arts and cultural programming in Somerville.
4. Despite a tight economy, we continue to fundraise within the business community to support ArtBeat.

10. Arts Council – FY08 Goals

1. In FY08, the Arts Council will continue to fundraise to support our core programming.
2. We will continue work on and expand in year three the ArtsUnion initiative, completing 4 large markets, ten performance series, six cultural tours, a Union TV series, and a continued placement of street furniture and performance area within the square, and continue to support the ArtsUnion zoning amendments .
3. Also, with funding support from the NEA, our goal is to further understand and support the cultural needs of the Portuguese/ Brazilian communities by conducting a cultural arts assessment.

11. ACE Service Project

ACE Service Project: Accurate, Courteous, Easy Service from your City government.

“The mission of this project is to respond accurately and efficiently to constituent needs, while treating each customer with courtesy and respect, and constantly improving the ease of doing business with city government.” ~Mayor Joseph Curtatone, 2007 Midterm Address

The Arts Council strives to meet the ACE goals by:

- Sending staff to ACE Customer Service Trainings. (FY07)
- Expanding the website and introducing our new electronic newsletter, which provide the public with accessible, visually appealing, accurate information about the Somerville Arts Council. (FY07)
- Conducting a cultural arts assessment to further understand and support the cultural needs of the Portuguese/ Brazilian communities in Somerville. (FY08)